

FORWARD

- day by day -

EASTER 1953



Easter

Hail thee, Festival Day! blest day that art
hallowed for ever;
Day whereon Christ arose, conquered the
Kingdom of death.

Fortunatus

Words cannot utter
Christ His returning:
Mankind, keep jubilee,
Strip off your mourning,
Crown you with garlands,
Set your lamps burning.
Speech is left speechless;
Set you to singing,
Fling your hearts open wide,
Set your bells ringing:
Christ the Chief Reaper
Comes, His sheaf bringing.
Earth wakes her song-birds,
Puts on her flowers,
Leads out her lambkins,
Builds up her bowers:
This is man's spousal day,
Christ's day and ours.

Christina G. Rossetti

Let two worlds awake and cry
Spring has come and winter fled.
Dark is over, dawn is nigh,
Christ is Risen from the dead.

G. A. Studdert Kennedy

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April 5 to May 30, 1953

The Cover Symbol

Over the last three Easter issues our cover designs have given the traditional symbols for three of the Evangelists—St. John, St. Mark, and St. Matthew. On this cover our artist completes the series with a free drawing of the symbol for St. Luke—the winged calf of *Revelation* 4:7-8, attributed to St. Luke by Irenaeus because of his simple and earnest description of our Lord's sacerdotal office and sacrifice, the calf being the symbol of sacrifice.

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT
PUBLICATIONS
412 SYCAMORE ST., CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Preparation for Holy Communion

The Way to Peace of Mind

Don't Worry

The Art of Living

Does it Matter What we Believe?

Is God Good?

Because of the necessity of sending our copy for *Forward—day-by-day* to the printers several months before the date of issue, we are not able to announce our new publications immediately they come out; but our readers can be kept up-to-date by writing for the latest Order Blank. Please enclose postage for reply. *Ed.*

A Sensation

And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them.
RSV

THEY were excited and frightened. The news was "sensational". They could hardly take it in, for the mind works slowly when the emotions are stirred. They had recently passed through a great sorrow; their hearts had been strained to capacity. And here came something right on top of that. No wonder they felt it was just too much; they could not stand any more.

Then gradually, gently, as the days passed, the Lord led them out of fright and bewilderment into a quiet and steady knowledge of His resurrection and what it meant.

Easter is an exciting day. We feel lifted up towards heaven, but soon we find that we have to live on earth. We need to learn how to carry over the power of Easter into the daily experiences of the week-days ahead of us. For we cannot live on thrills any more than we can live on sauces and spices. The Lord shows us how to nourish ourselves on the wholesome bread of His continued presence. This will be our theme.

The Collect: Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech thee that, as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end.

The Lord Comes to Us

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

OUR task is to translate excitement into sustained loyalty and a continued sense of companionship with Christ. The Lord helps us by coming to us. He does not wait for us to struggle through the darkness until we find Him.

The two friends who walked along the road to Emmaus were discouraged. They had had great hopes, and then the lights went out and all was black. But He came to them and walked along with them. In a few hours everything was changed.

This is the assurance which we always have. Our Lord is active in His desire to have us know Him. He wants us to understand the Scriptures. He wants us to see that there is a plan and purpose in the world. Recent events did not mean the defeat of God; they meant that God was accomplishing what He set out to do.

So He came and walked with them. He restored their confidence and cleared their understanding. So He does still. Excitement passes and thrills fade out. But we can walk bravely and hopefully because He is with us.

The Collect: O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread; Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold thee in all thy works; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Daily Bread

And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. RSV

HE came again. There they were in the upper room, excited by strange tidings that had come but still so upset that they did not know what it all meant. And He came to them and greeted them. Then, as He had broken bread with the friends at Emmaus, He ate with the little company gathered there in Jerusalem.

Eating is a natural, normal thing for people; we do it regularly every day. It is one of the ways in which we can make real our companionship with Him, for He desires to enter into every activity which is properly human. So we welcome Him to our table, not only by "Grace before meals" but also by eating our daily bread sensibly and reverently, without haste or greed, without luxury or waste.

And then we remember that eating is a bond of fellowship. Homes are made sweeter when meals are eaten together in the right spirit, friendships are made stronger. He wants to be a partaker of our common life, and so He comes to us in order that He may be our companion in all we do.

The Collect: Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with reverence the Paschal feast, may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Say It Again

And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." RSV

IT takes time for big things to sink in. I once heard a great actor (E. H. Sothorn) say that the author of a play had to repeat himself from time to time in order that the audience might be sure to know what was going on. So we read the Easter story again.

St. Matthew's Gospel carries us further than St. Mark's does. In it, we read that the disciples went to a certain mountain in Galilee and saw the Lord there. But it was not a case of searching, for He had told them where He would be and He was there to meet them. We follow the same principle that guided us yesterday and the day before: the risen Christ takes the initiative and always tries to make Himself known. We do not have to grope in the dark, for He comes to us.

But it is also true that He summons us to meet Him in new places. He does not always permit us to stay comfortably in our churches or by our own firesides. He tells us that He is to be found in our work and in our social activities. He gives us an appointment and asks us to meet Him in the Galilee where we work or on the hill-top where we play. And when we obey, we are sure to find Him.

Ordered to Duty

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." RSV

OUR Lord has two calls for us: one is "Come"—He invites us to closer fellowship with Him that we may receive insight and strength; the other is "Go."

When He had convinced His friends that He really was alive, He gave them the Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." He set no limits. No one could come back in a few days and say "I have finished that job."

He means that we must carry the Gospel into all parts of the world and into every part of life, to homes and social groups, to business and industry, to governments and churches. We are not simply to talk to them; we are to *make disciples* of them, to Christianize them. For His purpose is that all things should come under the power of His kingdom.

It is hard to step out into some new duty. We feel helpless and ignorant. But when we go, we find that we are not alone. As He came to them in the days after the Resurrection, so He comes to us now. He sends us out, and then He says, "Lo, I am with you always." *As we obey*, we find it is really true. He is with us.

Friday, April 10—Read St. John 20:1-10

To Those in Need

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"
St. Luke 24:33-34. RSV

ST. JOHN brings us parts of the story which the others omit or only suggest.

That Friday and Saturday were terrible days for Peter. He denied his Lord; and there the story left him, weeping bitterly. The crucifixion made it all the harder to bear, for now he had no chance to redeem himself. The Master was dead. But when word came that the tomb was empty, Peter jumped up and ran to the garden. He saw nothing then but the linen cloths in the empty tomb; perhaps on the way home the Lord appeared to him.

Christ came to Peter because Peter needed Him. Not because he loved the Lord more than the others did, but because his grief was so heavy and his need so urgent, Peter received the reassuring comfort of the Lord's appearance.

So it is always. When we really need Him, we may be sure that He will help us. When we know that we have failed, He does not abandon us. When we are discouraged and ashamed, He comes to lift us up. Blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are you when you feel depressed and hopeless. He will not forsake you. He comes and shows that He is alive for evermore.

Mary Magdalene

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary.

HERE is another person who needed the Lord. We do not know much about Mary Magdalene. St. Luke says (8:2) that "seven demons came out of her," and tradition has elaborated this into all manner of fanciful stories. She had had trouble. Perhaps it had been moral, so that people were suspicious of her character. Perhaps it had been emotional (as we call it now) so that people questioned her sanity. Whatever it was, she had begun to find her way out, and then her Saviour had been snatched away by a cruel death. Our Lord had done much for her, and for that reason she felt her loss the more keenly.

And as she sat there in the garden sobbing her heart out, He came and spoke to her by name.

He knows each one of us personally and He cares for us individually. We may have times of bitter grief. We may have days when it seems as if "the props had been pulled out from under the sky." We may walk in dark valleys. But He will walk with us. We may not recognize Him at first. But we shall not be afraid for He is with us, and He will bring us safely through.

Sunday, April 12—Read St. John 20:19-25

First Sunday after Easter

The Trouble with Thomas

Now Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." RSV

WE do not know why Thomas was absent that night. Perhaps unexpected guests had come to his house; perhaps he had worked hard and needed a rest; perhaps his wife had prepared a particularly good supper. (These all have a familiar sound, haven't they?)

But the fact is that he was not there with his friends, and that is why he missed the appearance of the risen Lord. His trouble was not intellectual but social, not in his mind but in his heart. He lacked a sense of fellowship. He knew where the brethren would be, but he preferred to stay by himself.

Wherever you may be living, Christian friends are gathering today for worship. There may be many of them in a big church or a handful of people in a little mission. You will miss something if you stay at home. You will fail to receive the blessing which comes when "two or three are gathered together". The Lord will be there; but you will not see Him.

The Collect: Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the Fellowship

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" RSV

THE point which was made yesterday is not pure imagination. For, when Thomas returned to the fellowship, he saw the Lord. The Master does make Himself known to individuals like Peter and Mary Magdalene who really need Him. But He did not seek out Thomas and appear to him. He waited until Thomas dropped his isolated individualism and returned to the fellowship. Then, when Thomas' social sense had been restored, he saw the Lord.

St. Paul wrote (*Ephesians* 3:18) of the spiritual knowledge that we gain "with all the saints". There is an insight and an understanding which we receive when we are members of the Christian family. There is a divine gift which is offered to us when we are in love and charity with our neighbors.

We grow in grace as we share in the life of the Church. A sense of brotherhood clears our eyes for deeper vision. The power of fellowship strengthens our minds for fuller understanding. We see the Lord when we are with our brethren.

Tuesday, April 14—Read Romans 1:7-15

Learning from One Another

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. RSV

THE human mind generally works better when it is in touch with other minds. A few great scientific discoveries have been made by single individuals working alone in the laboratory. More have been made by groups or teams working together, one member adding a point here, another contributing something there.

It was the team-work of Banting and MacLeod that gave us insulin. It was the clash of argument between Hamilton and Jefferson that helped give us a democracy in which the power of government is balanced against the rights of the individual. In these and many other cases, it is impossible to say that any one person saw the whole truth.

All this is by way of emphasizing the point that we cannot hope to grow in religious knowledge if we remain lonely isolated individuals. We need the insight which others can bring to us; and they need the vision which we have seen. It is *with all the saints*, that we are able to comprehend "what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge".

(*Ephesians* 3:18-19)

Understanding God

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. . . *Hebrews 1:1-2. RSV*

I REMEMBER quite vividly a discussion which was held in a "student center" on a University campus many years ago. We were all young and immature—some twenty-five students and a minister only a few years older than they. The topic was "What do we mean by God?"

We did not arrive at a very clear and exact answer. Probably the "findings" of the group would have been considered quite faulty by a professor of theology. But the exciting thing was to feel the group working together. First, one boy ventured a statement. Then another added a point which enlarged the first proposition. Then a girl contributed a thought which corrected and balanced a false emphasis. And so it went on for nearly an hour. We all grew in knowledge and understanding. And when the time came to adjourn, we all knew God better.

It was Joseph Mazzini who said: "We can only elevate ourselves towards God through the souls of our fellowmen." Certainly there is an elevation of soul for all who seek the truth of God with others.

Many parishes now have Study Groups or "Buzz Groups", as they are sometimes called, in which several people can work out together the meaning and implications of the Christian Faith. New understanding and interest have come from them, and the Church would gain from an extension of this technique. *Ed.*

The Knowledge of God

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! . . . For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. *Romans 11:33, 36. RSV*

HOW can a human mind comprehend God? Of course it is too large a task for any single individual. And some of our present religious trouble comes from the fact that we have been given descriptions and definitions which express one side of God's tremendous nature and leave out another side which is equally true and important.

This is one reason why we need the Church. For in the whole company of the faithful we have the treasury of insights which men of all ages and of every race and nation have won for us.

The knowledge of God is not one note played by a single instrument. It is a majestic, thrilling chord made up of many notes coming from strings, woods and brasses, all blending in harmony. The music lover is not content to hear it but one time. He listens over and over again, and his understanding and appreciation grow with the hearing.

So should our knowledge of God increase in richness and depth and strength.

O God, who knowest me altogether, help me to know more of thee and to increase in knowledge and love of thee day by day.

To Know a Person

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. *St. John 17:3*

WHEN we speak of knowing God, remember that knowing a person is different from knowing a fact. Suppose there is someone whom you want to know better; how do you go about it?

Like the disciples to whom John Baptist pointed out the Master, you find out where he lives. You visit him in his home. You invite him to come to see you. You make the most of opportunities for conversation—on the street corner, in the store or bus and wherever else you may find him. You encourage him to talk about himself and his interests; and you listen.

People have come to know God in just these ways. To them, He is not a page in a book; He is a Friend with whom they are on good terms. They have cultivated that friendship and have found that He was more than willing to receive them into closer intimacy. They know Him and trust Him and love Him. And in their hearts they are sure that He cares for them.

O God, who are the Light of the minds that know thee, the Life of the souls that love thee, and the Strength of the wills that serve thee; help us so to know thee that we may truly love thee, so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His Friends

After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. . . RSV

THE great religious leaders of mankind have always valued their friends. They have not been lonely hermits who wanted to live apart from people. At times they would go off into a solitary place to pray, but they always returned to the company of friends.

I think it is fair to say that these men felt the need of other hearts and other minds. They wanted to test their own insight by sharing it with others. They wanted to work out ideas and clear their own minds by frank discussion. Even more, they were sociable, friendly, unselfish. These traits are fruits of the spirit; you will find them in all great souls.

Jesus chose the Twelve partly for their sakes, that He might instruct them more fully and intimately than He could talk to the crowds. He even chose three out of the twelve for more intimate companionship. He chose them for the sake of the work that must be carried on after His departure. And He chose them for His own sake, that He might share His experiences with them. Even when they did not agree or understand, they helped to confirm His convictions and enforce His resolution. But chiefly He took them with Him because He loved them and wanted them with Him.

Sunday, April 19—Read I. Cor. 14:1-12

Second Sunday after Easter

Finding Christ

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

St. Matthew 18:20

THE living Christ is our constant companion. The Resurrection is not just a sensational event that happened once, but also an assurance that He is alive now. And He is the same person, loving His friends and desiring to be with them.

And now it is we (not they alone) who are His friends. We believe that we find Him when we are in fellowship with others. He comes close to us in the blessed company of all faithful people.

Worship at its best is found in the congregation. The spiritual contact of soul with soul increases the moral and spiritual strength of each member of the group.

What happens is that we are clearing the way for God to help us. We do not save one another; but, all working together, we set up conditions in which God's voice is heard more clearly and His power felt more effectively. We drop some of our pride. We surrender the feeling that we are just a little better than others. We open our hearts to those who kneel beside us.

The Collect: Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christian Worship

In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." *Acts 20:35. RSV*

WORSHIP does not mean simply a gathering of people for religious purposes. Worship is not getting or receiving; it is giving. Christian worship takes place when people offer to God the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. We do not "get something out of" worship; we give ourselves to God in worship.

But how little of me is really mine! I am made up of all sorts of things which I have received from parents, teachers, friends—in other words, from the Fellowship. And so I come as a member of that Fellowship joining in an act of worship in which I am humbly thankful to have a share.

And I am just one human being with many faults and weaknesses. Yet there are others who are strong where I am weak, who have virtues which compensate for my faults. Therefore I bring my little life and make it part of the life of the Church in order that the whole offering which is made to God may be more nearly worthy of His love.

Almighty God, who hast knit us together in one communion and fellowship: grant us so to realize our oneness in Him, that we may supply one another's need and together offer to thee the thankful worship of our common life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, April 21—Read I. Cor. 14:13-33

Common Prayer

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 15:5. RSV*

IN order to make our worship a true act of fellowship there must be a uniting spirit. It is not enough that people be in the same building; they need to be "of one mind and heart" thinking about the same things, desiring the same things.

This is one reason why we have a Book of Common Prayer. Within these covers we have more than beautiful and reverent words. We have prayers in which we can all join, as we also join in spirit with those who have used the same prayers for many centuries and with fellow worshippers all over the world. It is inspiring and uplifting to let the imagination travel abroad to a great Cathedral in the east and then to a tiny mission in the west and then to a hospital bedside—all praying in the same words.

Of course we have a chance to express our own personal thoughts at various points in the service, especially when there is a short pause or a moment of silence.

But there is true value in common prayer. When we sing together, we use a Hymnal to help us unite in word and tune. So we use a Book of Common Prayer to unite us in an act of worship.

The Christian Family

To the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philemon 2. RSV

WE talk so much about family prayer because we believe that the family itself is very important. It is the basis of a good society, a good city, a good nation. It is the foundation of all living-together, for we have learned that one of the marks of a strong and wholesome personality is the capacity for successful "inter-personal relationships"—which means, in plain language, "getting along with people". Above all, the family is the Church in miniature.

For we come closer to God in and through our human fellowships. Two of the most important words in the vocabulary of religion are "father" and "brother". And don't forget that mother, sister, son, daughter, husband, and wife are important too. The home is the place where we learn what these words mean. The home is where we first learn how to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The fact that our Lord could use the words *Father* and *brother* so frequently and so naturally is good evidence for the wholesomeness of family life among the people to whom He spoke. The better the quality of our home life, the more readily we understand and appreciate the Gospel.

St. Mark

Take Mark and bring him with thee; for he is profitable to me for the ministry. *II. Tim. 4:11*

A FRIEND has been defined as "somebody who knows all about you and likes you just the same." All of us are grateful for those who know our faults but stand by us in spite of them.

Mark had his faults. We do not know what they were. But Paul knew them and felt that they made Mark unfit for Christian service. Barnabas also knew them, but he liked Mark just the same and gave him another chance. Then years later, Paul relented and sent for Mark to come and help him.

Friendship is one of the types of fellowship which bring us closer to God. God knows all about us and loves us just the same. We help our friends as we refuse to let their faults, or ours, interrupt our friendship.

Nor hope to find

A Friend but what has found a Friend in thee!

All like the purchase; few the price will pay. . .

Judge before Friendship, then confide till death!

Well, for thy Friend, but nobler far for thee;

How gallant danger for earth's highest prize!

A friend is worth all hazards we can run!

Poor is the friendless master of a world!

A world in purchase for a Friend is gain!

E. Young

The Collect: O Almighty God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark; Give us grace that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday, April 24—Read II. Timothy 1:1-7

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In Our Work

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go afishing.

THAT meant that he was going back to work. It was not a fishing trip for recreation, to help them get over the strain of the past weeks. Fishing was their business, the way they had once earned their living, and they were taking it up again where they had left off. Possibly also they were tired and discouraged, feeling "let down" after much excitement. If so, they were taking the best possible course towards renewed strength and encouragement.

For the Lord came to them while they were at work, just as He had done when He first called them.

If our work is honest, it will not shut us off from God. Often it will bring us closer to Him. The Lord does not sit in His temple waiting to speak only to those who come to seek Him there. He goes out into the world and finds us in our fishing boats, at our desks, in the fields, at our work benches. For the whole world is His and His loving care is over all His works and over all who labor. Let us in the next few days recall some of those to whom God came while they were at work.

The Collect: Almighty God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday, April 27—Read Exodus 3:1-10

Moses

And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him. . .

MOSES was a shepherd, tending the flock of his father-in-law. He was at work, watching the sheep, guarding them against danger, leading them to good grazing-ground, when suddenly the call came to him. And from then on he found himself charged with the task of leading his own people out of bondage and of teaching them how to live as the people of God.

Volumes have been written about the life and work of Moses. To sum up in a few words what he did, we might say that Moses taught the people to regulate their whole life by the will of God—not only their prayers and sacrifices but also their business and politics and all their relations with their neighbors. That is why we find so many Jewish laws which seem to deal with what we should call secular affairs. In the Bible nothing is secular or worldly because God is Lord of the whole creation. As we look for God, we come to recognize the signs of His presence.

For Moses learned, and then taught, that God rules over all human activities and makes Himself known to us if only we stop and look and listen. God is near us in our work and we discover Him as we find that

earth's crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God.

Elisha

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

WHEN the prophet Elijah was instructed to select someone to be his successor as spokesman for the Lord Jehovah, he found his man at work, out in the field plowing. And the call came to Elisha while he followed the oxen down the long furrow.

Elisha's first act seems strange to us. He made kindling wood out of the yokes and plow, for a sacrificial fire. To put it differently, he took the tools of his work and devoted them to his new task.

Is that so very different from the act of a businessman who sold his store and used the proceeds to finance his course in a Theological School?

When God calls you while you are at work, it does not mean that the work is wrong in itself. It may mean that the work can become a way to serve His kingdom, that the skill and experience which you have learned in the world can be offered to God and thereby made profitable to Him.

Be sure, no earnest Work
Of any honest creature,—howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill adapted—fails so much,
It is not gathered as a grain of sand
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's end. *E. B. Browning*

Wednesday, April 29—Read Amos 7:10-15

Amos

The Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

AMOS was not a professional prophet. He was a shepherd who apparently put in some of his time tending the fig trees which grew in the pasture.

And, like most farmers, he was also a businessman. He had to go to the markets; and on those business trips he saw cruelty and oppression, bribery and corruption, drunkenness and vice.

Above the shouting and confusion of the market place, Amos caught a vision of the righteousness of God. Over against the depraved luxury of court and shrine, he saw the eternal justice of the Lord. And he spoke out fiercely and bitterly.

When the businessman sees things which disturb his conscience, he does not have to submit. Some industries are wonderfully different from what they were fifty years ago; some stores have an entirely new spirit; certain men responded to an inner compulsion to righteousness and decency and good will. God called them while they were at work, and their work became an opportunity to serve the kingdom.

Lord, help us to find an opportunity for serving thee in our daily work. The truth we have found in thee, help us to defend for thee, and give us light always to see clearly where our duty lies; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Shepherds

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

THERE are many kinds of work. Some are difficult or dangerous, some are active and strenuous, some are quiet and dull.

Tending sheep is not generally exciting. Sometimes there may be an emergency, like a marauding animal or a straying lamb, but usually it is pretty dull work. Sheep-herders have a reputation for becoming melancholy just from the boredom of silent lonely hours.

Some of us live in a very dull world. We grow tired and depressed because we do not find anything to stir our interest. But the monotony is largely in our own minds. We can learn to see our work as part of something greater. We can find meaning in life by offering "the daily round, the common task" to God as our share in His purpose.

The shepherds of Bethlehem suddenly found that the glory of the Lord could shine in the dark fields as well as in the great Temple. The glad tidings of God's great gift to all mankind came to them as they sat by their sheep.

You may think that your work is tiresome and uninteresting. But in it you are serving God and He is with you, and

the world is more full of glory
Than you can understand.

Fri., May 1—Read I. Corinthians 12:14-28

Saint Philip and Saint James

Philip and James

God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

HERE are two men about whom we know very little. They are mentioned a few times in the New Testament, St. Philip notably in the Gospel according to St. John (ch. 14:8-9), who, by his request "Show us the Father", drew from Jesus His great declaration "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." But they were not in the "inner circle" (this is not James the son of Zebedee) and they did not become missionary heroes like Paul and Barnabas. Yet they were faithful to the Lord and they walked "worthy of the vocation".

Let us gratefully remember them as representatives of the host of men and women who live quietly, simply and usefully.

All these put their trust in their hands;

And each becometh wise in his own work . . .

They shall not be sought for in the council of
the people

And in the assembly they shall not mount on
high . . .

But they will maintain the fabric of the world,

And in the handywork of their craft is their
prayer.

Ecclesiasticus 38:31-34

The Collect: O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; Grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life; that, following the steps of thy holy Apostles, Saint Philip and Saint James, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew

Jesus . . . saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. *St. Matthew 9:9. RSV*

LET us now return to the theme for this week. Here was Levi (or Matthew, as he came to be called) attending to his business as a tax-collector. It was not the kind of job that would be likely to make a man sensitive to spiritual values.

Then one day an opportunity came. The strange, wonderful Rabbi that everyone was talking about, stopped at the door and said, "Levi, I need you. Come with me." Perhaps they had met before, for I think that our Lord knew His neighbors and chose His followers carefully. Probably Levi took time to close the office and turn in his accounts. But the point is that the call came, as it did to the others, while he was at work.

You cannot shut God out of your life. There is no place where you are far from Him. He is always close at hand and His voice can come through the clatter of the business machines or the clang of the assembly line.

He may want you to stay where you are and do a better job for His sake. If His world is to run smoothly, there must be many people to look after all the varied tasks upon which our life and health depend. He may want you to leave all that and serve Him in some other way. But, when He calls, *follow*.

Sunday, May 3—Read St. Luke 21:25-33

Fourth Sunday after Easter

The Way out of Confusion

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

I. John 2:17

“THE world is in a mess,” we frequently say. Men have been saying it for centuries. There have been times when things looked as though they were beginning to get straight—and then something went wrong and man found himself in another predicament.

Only God can put order into a confused world. That is what the word “order” in today’s collect means. The first step is to untangle and re-organize the unruly hearts of men. For too many of us are all mixed up inside; we lack purpose, meaning, aim.

We can help ourselves and help God to help us by learning to love what He commands and to desire what He promises. For in this way we find a right motive, a proper incentive. We gain an ambition which is in harmony with the real purpose of life. We no longer want first to have our own way. We seek to receive what He will give. We obey Him because we love Him.

This is the only way, to true security in a world of uncertainty. Thus we find peace for our hearts and order for a confused world.

The Collect: O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Religious Work

Is not this the carpenter?

St. Mark 6:3

THE will of God is something which has to do with all of life. The service of God is not limited to the Church or to so-called "spiritual affairs". It is the way we express in daily life our love for His commands and our desire for His promises. This service has many varieties but is inspired by one motive.

Quite true, we need clergymen, deaconesses, full-time church workers of all sorts. But we also need men and women who are serving God in shops and offices and homes.

The sacredness of a task does not lie in its outward form but in its inner spirit. Do you know the story of Brother Lawrence who worked humbly in the monastery kitchen and learned there "The Practise of the Presence of God"? (See the little Forward Movement booklet with this title.) An honest dishwasher is a better minister than a clergyman who uses his pulpit as a vehicle of intolerance and pride or cloak to cover his laziness. It was the Church of England priest George Herbert who wrote

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in any thing
To do it as for Thee . . .
A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws
Makes that and th' action fine.

Tues., May 5—Read I. Corinthians 12:4-12

Diversities of Gifts

I will sing, and give praise with the best member that I have. *Psalm 108:1*

NO two of us are exactly alike. God has made us all different because He has a place for each one of us in His kingdom.

We are not called to follow one set pattern. We have distinctive individual gifts, and we are called to glorify God "with the best member that we have"—one man with the skill of his fingers, another with the quality of his voice, and so on.

If there is one thing which you can do better than you can do anything else, consider carefully whether God may mean that to be your contribution to His work. It is not a question whether you can do it better than anyone else. It is *your* best which God wants. Learn to do what you can with what you have where you are.

I know an excellent physician who once thought of going into the ministry. He was a sincere and active churchman and a leader among Christian young people. But he was deeply interested in the work of healing, because of a boyhood experience, and he could not be his best self in any other vocation. He would have been a third-rate clergyman but he has become a first-rate doctor—to the glory of God.

Church Work

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. . . in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. *I. Peter 4:10-11. RSV*

SOMETIMES a man will come to his minister and say, "I want a job. I don't mean that I need employment. What I want is a chance to serve the Church—ushering, committee work, transportation for Sunday School children—that sort of thing."

Often we have Church work prescribed as a remedy for indifference. "Give him a job," we are told, "and he will become interested."

Well, there are not many jobs like that in the average parish. But there is work for every Christian in the world. There was a time when it was common to describe a man's trade or profession as his "calling"; and, indeed, for the Christian it ought to be regarded as such—a sphere in which one can serve God.

Suppose that you are a clerk in a store; then your job is to be the best clerk that you can make yourself. Give your employer a full day's work. Give your customers courteous, alert, interested service. Give your fellow-clerks cheerful and helpful companionship. And as opportunities come, speak well of your Church and invite your friends to attend with you.

That can be your "Church work".

Quality in Work

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed.

II. Timothy 2:15. RSV

LET us think a little more about this matter of Church work. We Christians have a real opportunity to show the power of our faith by the quality of our work.

If you went down Main Street, Nazareth, to the carpenter shop of "Joseph and Son" you would be sure to find honest work being done. If you bought a stool or a plow handle, you could be certain that you were getting sound material and honest workmanship.

If you bought an awning from "Aquila, Priscilla and Paul" in Corinth, you would receive full value, nothing shoddy, poorly cut or badly stitched. Honest workmen turn out honest work.

I once heard a Christian carpenter say, "I drive every nail to the glory of God." That was his Church work.

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead tells of a cobbler to whom this tribute was paid: "He cobbled shoes to the glory of God for forty years", and suggests that when we are better Christians we might ordain men and women to whatever job they have chosen to do. In a sense, indeed, we have already been "ordained" in baptism and confirmation to serve God in our daily lives. And this means in our work.

Sharing

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus.

INSPIRED by the heart-warming preaching of Dwight L. Moody, a man went to the evangelist and said, "I want to do some religious work." Moody said, "What do you do for a living?" "I'm a railroad engineer," was the reply. "Is your fireman a Christian?" asked Moody. "I don't know." "All right," said Moody, "there is your first job."

There are probably children in your own neighborhood who do not go to Sunday School. There are people across the street who do not go to Church. There are folks whom you see every day who have no real knowledge of God.

You don't have to be condescending or priggish. The way to approach them is to be friendly, sincere, and genuinely interested. We know of a judge in New England who was brought to Christ and the Church in just this way. It was the witness of character and of sincere Church membership more than anything else that did it. Winning another may take a long time, but it is part of your duty as a follower of Christ.

Many men in the Church, inspired by the example of St. Andrew, have pledged themselves, in the *Brotherhood of St. Andrew*, to seek to bring one new man every week to Christ and the Church; and they "share" what they have found in the Church in other ways besides. *Ed.*

Leisure

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. *Ephesians 5:15-16. RSV*

IT used to be that a man's daily work took up all, or most of his waking hours. It still does for some: doctors and farmers, for example.

But a great many of us have at least some spare time. Leisure-time activities are coming to be more and more important. Here are a couple of suggestions for the man who wants "something to do".

One is study. I don't mean dry textbooks and dull lectures. But do you know enough of "what a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health"? How well do you know your Bible? How much could you tell a friend about your Church? Do you know what the Church is doing by way of serving the world?

The other is visiting. Of course you expect your Rector to make calls. How about you? I know men and women who give some time every week. They do not limit themselves to a few congenial friends. They go visiting and bring Christian friendliness into many a lonely home.

There is no reason now why lay-folk should not be well informed about the Church and the Christian Faith. There are plenty of good books to help them if they will take time to read them. See *Chapters in Church History*, and *The Faith of the Church*. Seabury Press, 28 Havemeyer Place, Greenwich, Conn. *Ed.*

Good Prayer

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Ephesians 6:18

GOOD prayer includes many things. But let us now think of one point only. What shall we ask for? What is our "soul's sincere desire"? What do we really want? We are bringing our petitions into the presence of the holy God. Let us cleanse our hearts of vanity and selfishness. Let us make sure that we are not cluttering up the sanctuary with petty trifles.

Today is being observed by many as "Mothers' Day". Your mother gave you more than food and toys. Give her something better than a telegram or flowers.

Your best gift for your mother is a clean and consecrated love. It is a devotion which goes deeper than sentimentality and the way you express it should be more beautiful than even a perfect rose. Tell God that your heart's desire is to know and do His will in sincerity and truth, to be the kind of person He means for you to be. Then your prayer for your mother will be the finest thing you can give her and the life you live will bring honor to her and glory to God.

The Collect: O Lord, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rogation Monday, May 11—Read Psalm 104

Rogation Days

Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, have been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.

Romans 1:20. RSV

WILLIAM Temple once said that Christianity is the most materialistic of all the great religions. By this he meant that we “believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven *and earth*”. We proclaim as the highest truth that “the Word *was made flesh*”.

The physical universe belongs to God. Earth and rocks, plants and trees are His handiwork. Wind and rain obey His laws. “Ask of the earth and it shall teach thee” of Him who made it. Many are the great scientists who have learned to see the hand of God in His creation.

So we have these “Rogation Days” in the spring. For we know that the soil is His and the seed grows because of His loving purpose. The Church has for many centuries recognized and proclaimed this truth. In some places the ancient custom is still followed and the minister goes out to bless the fields and to pray for a good crop.

Whether you do this in person or not, remember in your prayers today the people who toil and the earth which God made.

The Collect: Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth; We beseech thee to pour forth thy blessing upon this land, and to give us a fruitful season; that we, constantly receiving thy bounty, may evermore give thanks unto thee in thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday, May 12—Read St. Mark 4:1-9

Rogation Tuesday

Tillers of the Soil

And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous.

Isaiah 30:23. RSV

LAST week we thought about the "church work" which is being done in all sorts of jobs. The Rogation Days remind us of the millions of people all over the world who are helping God "bring forth bread out of the earth".

They have great needs, for it is hard work and often lonely work. The migration from farm to town which still goes on all over the world is a symptom of physical and spiritual unrest.

Our prayers, our friendly interest and understanding, our genuine concern for all who till the soil, can become expressions of Christian fellowship. Without pride or condescension we can bring to the whole "problem of agriculture" the refreshing sense of our partnership and the renewed assurance of God's care.

Here is another prayer for the Rogation Days and one that we might well use frequently in our daily devotions:

Almighty God, who hast promised that seedtime and harvest shall not cease; and who dost bless the things needful for the life of mankind: Bless all farmers, orchardmen, ranchers and fishermen, and all who process, preserve and transport the fruit of their labors, that thy hungering children may be fed, to the praise and glory of thy great Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Partners with God

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already; whereof we rejoice. . . They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed, shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

THERE is an old saying that “you can take the boy out of the country but you can’t take the country out of the boy.” It is repeated here in appreciation, not in jest. For there are people who farm because they love it, just as there are clergymen and doctors and teachers (and many others) who could not be happy doing anything else.

To be a good farmer can be a vocation, a divine calling. One finds continued interest and joy in the work. To share with God in making things grow, to improve the soil, to find or develop a better seed, to see animals become stronger and healthier—all these things can be raised from drudgery into satisfying work.

It is this sense of partnership with God that makes the difference. If you feel discouraged, lonely, tired, turn to Him and dedicate your life and work to His great purpose. The farmer has always been a worker with God.

Father, who on man dost shower
Gifts of plenty from thy dower,
To thy people give the power
All thy gifts to use aright.

With Him Continually

God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. . .

Ephesians 2:4-6

VERY early, as men began to think about what it all meant, it gradually came home to Christians that our Lord took His human nature with Him in His Ascension. Something had been added to the Life that came into the world—thirty years of labor and friendship, weariness and temptation, joy and love.

We believe that the Ascension is a demonstration of the great truth that our Lord lifts up our human experience and transforms it.

We have been thinking of the wide range of life and work here in this world. When these things are put into God's hands, they are raised above the earthly. They are no longer empty and meaningless; they cease to be drudgery. For He has lifted them up.

The Collect: Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Human Nature

Verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:16-17

OUR LORD “took our nature upon Him” when He was born. He took our nature with Him when He ascended. That may sound technical but it is really simple.

Many people are pessimistic about human nature. They say, “All men are liars”—“every man has his price”—“it doesn’t pay to trust anyone”.

But God says, “It is quite true that human nature is frail. But it is not hopeless. It has great possibilities.”

The life of Jesus Christ showed what those possibilities were. One day I heard a fine musician play on a rather inferior piano. A friend remarked, “I would not have believed there was that much music in the old box.” Jesus showed what could be done with the instrument of human nature. Nobody else, perhaps, could see in Simon the fisherman what Jesus saw in him. But at their first meeting He gave him the new name “Peter”, because He saw through Peter’s weaknesses to a strength of character that had the quality of heroism in it. It was Jesus who made Peter the martyr.

In God's Hands

With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible. *St. Mark 10:27*

THE ASCENSION rounds out and completes the story of our Lord's earthly career. It is an event in history. But, like the other great acts of the Drama, it bears witness to a great truth which is more than history.

It is easy to lose faith in ourselves. We listen to something like the Sermon on the Mount; we catch a glimpse of the beauty of our Lord's life; and we say, "It's too hard, it's more than flesh and blood can do—I'm just human and there is no sense in trying to be any better."

But it was not human nature alone which rose and ascended. It was human nature fully devoted to God. Our opportunity is found in placing ourselves completely in God's hands, permitting Him to use us and to make us more nearly what we should be. "I can do all things in him who strengthens me."

Reflect upon these words in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(12:1-2)

Sunday, May 17—Read Acts 19:1-7

Sunday after Ascension Day

Waiting for Power

Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. *St. Luke 24:49-50*

THERE is a sense of hushed expectancy about these ten days from Ascension to Pentecost. We have been instructed but not yet put to work. Or, to change the figure, we are a factory carefully designed and equipped, but the power has not yet been turned on.

So it was with the little company who walked back from the Mount of Olives that day. They had the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount and the beautiful example of His life. But they needed more.

So it is with the Church in every age. We need His power, for we are not ignorant so much as weak. And we may be sure that He will give strength and loving help by the power of His Spirit. But if we are to receive the Spirit fully, we must be ready for Him. We must know beyond doubt that we really need Him. We do not rush ahead in impetuous self-confidence. We wait; we wait patiently; and we wait in hope; for we know that He is faithful that promised.

The Collect: O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

On Our Own

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil . . . and having done all to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-13

ONE way by which we learn how much we need help is to stand alone facing a task which we must perform.

The minister and his first sermon; the lawyer and his first case; the surgeon and his first operation; the bride and her first meal; the teacher and her first roomful of restless, curious children—we could stretch the list still further. But perhaps we have named you already. You cannot ask teacher now; you cannot look it up in the book; the job is yours and you must face it.

As a good teacher, our Lord tried to give His disciples responsibility in order that they might learn. When He sent them out into the villages of Galilee; when He said "You give them something to eat," He was putting them on their own. And, as they obeyed and tried to do what they could, they found help.

Something I must do individual,
To vindicate my nature, to give proof
I also am a Man.

Clough

Lord, help me always to do what thou hast put it in my power to do, knowing that even when I stand alone thou art with me and that thy grace is sufficient for me.

Tuesday, May 19—Read Philippians 2:1-13

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Eph. 2:12-13

It is expedient for you that I go away.

St. John 16:7

THERE must have been many a time when the disciples would say, "If I could only ask the Master about this!" He was wise enough to foresee such a situation. He was also wise enough to warn them not to expect Him to do their thinking for them.

For He sought to develop in them what Dean Hodges called "independent goodness". This is not an arrogant, know-it-all independence, but an inner strength of character which does not lean upon props or external frames. A crutch may be useful during the time of recovery, but the wise surgeon will encourage the patient to stand and then to walk alone. That calls for strength inside, in the bones and muscles. Christian character calls for inner strength.

And it is not our own strength, for it has grown by feeding upon spiritual nourishment which comes from Him. We have it because He gives it to us.

Nothing can alter the Responsibility which is laid upon each soul.

Bishop Westcott

Ask thy lone soul what laws are plain to thee—
Thee and no other!—stand or fall by them!
That is the part for thee.

Browning

Our Need is Great

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. *St. John 16:7*

IT was for their own good that He must leave them. So long as He was there to answer their questions and do their thinking for them, they could not completely realize their own need and they would not be ready to receive the full gift of power.

The little Church of those days was living in a sense of expectancy and hope. They knew what a heavy load of responsibility they must carry and how weak they were. Just because they had so little confidence in themselves they learned to wait upon the Lord in prayer and to lean on Him in trust.

We have all shared the feeling of being on our own in the face of some hard task. The more helpless we felt, the more ready we were to rely upon God. It is sometimes said that we are wrong in trying to break down a person's confidence. But what we seek to do is to teach people how to become confident in Christ, neither to cast away their trust in Him nor to put it in anything but Him. There is a sternness in God's love, like that wise parent or teacher. We must feel so much in need of God's help that our lives are open to accept it.

Open Minds and Hearts

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *St. Matt. 5:3*

ANY teacher will tell you that the most difficult pupil is the one who "knows all the answers". This is true in the schoolroom, in the workshop, on the playing field—anywhere that one tries to deal with beginners. But it is easy to teach one who knows he is ignorant and wants to learn.

Doctors say that the big strong man, who has never been sick and is sure he knows how to take care of himself, is the one most in danger of serious illness.

Many people hate to admit that they lack anything. They persist in bold self-confidence. They are sure that they do not need God. The first Beatitude indicates the first step towards God. Those who know they are not rich or wise or strong are the ones whose hearts and minds are open to receive the gifts of the kingdom. On the otherhand, those who, like the people in Laodicea, boast in their prosperity and live in self-satisfied complacency, are shut out by their lack of a sense of need from the greater riches of God. Blessed are they who are aware of their needs.

Reflect on this: The greater thou art, the more humble thyself, and thou shalt find favour before the Lord. Many are in high place and of renown, but mysteries are revealed unto the meek.

Ecclesiasticus 3:18-19

Moral needs

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. *St. John 13:17*

SOME of our needs are moral. By this, I mean that we find it hard to do what we know is right. It used to be said that the cure for our troubles is to be found in education. If people know the Bible, for example, they will be just and law abiding.

And then we find it does not work that way. Men get into trouble and say, "I don't know why I did it, for I knew better." I can give examples: even St. Paul found himself doing the evil that he hated. But I do not have to go so far away. I need only look at my own life and see that I have done those things which I ought not to have done, and left undone those things which I ought to have done; and I know it. I see my duty "with exasperating clearness" (as G. A. J. Ross put it) but I do not have the moral strength to measure up to it.

Be honest with yourself, reader. Can't you say the same of yourself? You were not ignorant; you were weak. You needed strength which you did not have when the test came. You are not exceptional. But you can thank God that "the Gospel is not good advice but good news"—it is the power of God unto salvation; it brings the strength which we all need.

Lord, I need not only to know what I ought to do, but also the will to do it. Take my weak will and make it strong to do thy will.

Saturday, May 23—Read Isaiah 11:1-9

A Right Judgment in all Things

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
St. John 8:31-32

OTHER of our needs will be mental. Our minds will not be equal to the task. We shall find ourselves wondering what we ought to do, asking, what *is* the right? And we shall not know the answer.

There were many things which our Lord did not tell His disciples. There are many personal problems which we cannot settle by looking up the right text in the Bible. There are many social and national questions for which the Scriptures have no clear-cut ready-made solution. It is a great and unfortunate mistake to say that our personal duty is so plain and simple that man can work out his own salvation. It is even worse to suppose that the affairs of industry and government could all be straightened out "if only men would follow Christ". One of the facts of life is that sincere and consecrated men honestly differ on such matters.

But God gave us minds and bade us use them. He wants us to think, to think honestly, to think clearly, to work out the answers with fear and trembling because we know our own human frailty. And He promises that His Spirit will guide us into all truth and give us a right judgment in all things.

The Gift of the Spirit

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all . . . For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT was a *gift* to the Church. Not a single person in that group had earned it. No one deserved it. God gave the Spirit to men and women who needed Him. They knew they were weak and ignorant, and so their minds and hearts were open. Moreover, they were waiting upon God when the great gift was given: waiting for the power from on high.

So it always is. Generously and freely God pours out His Spirit as men and women wait and pray. It is not a matter of rationing, so many drops to each person. It is a flowing stream.

God deals with us according to His love, not according to our deserving. He is more ready to give than we to ask. "If ye give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

The Collect: O God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

Monday, May 25—Read I. Cor. 16:15-24

Monday in Whitsun Week

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

WE love these words. We appreciate them even more when we find that they offer the answer to one of our deepest needs.

In an hour of dark loneliness, the Psalmist wrote "No man cared for my soul." In the darkest hour of all, the Man on the Cross quoted another Psalm, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

And the Holy Spirit breaks through the gloom with the assurance that God does care. For this is the Good News, that God loves us and comes to us, taking the first step, then constantly and actively following us with His goodness and mercy.

Then He gives the added blessing of human companionship. It is not always easy for us to see the invisible God or feel His touch. So He draws us into the fellowship of the Church. He surrounds us with friends and gives us their understanding love. A precious title for the Church is "the company of those who care."

As Churchmen we not only receive but also give. We have the privilege of making this friendship real to the lonely.

The Collect: Send, we beseech thee, Almighty God, thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that he may direct and rule us according to thy will, comfort us in all our afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end.

Tuesday, May 26—Read Acts 4:32-37

Tuesday in Whitsun Week

Witnesses

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

St. John 13:35

THE Great Commission was "to bear witness". The most effective way to carry out this assignment was to demonstrate a true fellowship.

Here were men and women who thought more of one another than they did of themselves. Their goods, their abilities, their time, were not held as private treasures but as means to service.

For centuries this has been the thing which made the Church grow; not eloquent preaching, not efficient organization, not beautiful worship, but a demonstrated spirit of fellowship. We can see this illustrated on every side. The effective sermon is that of the preacher who convinces his hearers that he really cares for them. Some of the recently founded "sects" are winning converts in ever greater numbers because in them people feel the warmth of being welcomed and accepted.

"With great power gave the apostles witness. . ." That power lay in the evident sincerity of their concern for one another.

The Collect: Grant, we beseech thee, merciful God, that thy Church, being gathered together in unity by the Holy Spirit, may manifest thy power among all peoples, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

Leaders

Let these also first be proved: then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

I. Timothy 3:10

LEADERSHIP counts. In *A Soldier's Story* General Bradley told of a Division which seemed so ineffective that he was about to recommend that it be broken up. But, instead, a new commander took over; under better leadership that Division became one of the best in the Army. The same truth has been demonstrated in businesses, factories, schools, and parishes.

The time has past (I say, it never was) when a boy who could not make good anywhere else would be accepted as a candidate for the Ministry. All of our Seminaries, thank God, are full; and the quality of students is excellent. But we must maintain that high standard and we must give our Seminaries the equipment and resources which they need in order to provide the very best training.

Only the best is good enough for God. Only the finest young men are qualified for God's Ministry.

The Collect: O Almighty God, who hast committed to the hands of men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, to put it into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Contributions for Theological Schools may be sent either through your Rector or to the Joint Commission on Theological Education, 281 4th Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. We urge the reading of a pamphlet—*The Ministry and You*, published by the National Council, 281 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. *Ed.*

Thursday, May 28—Read I. Timothy 3:1-10

The Sacrament of Vocation

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. *I. Peter 4:10*

IN between these Ember Days, let us recall what was said a few weeks ago about every honorable vocation.

One aspect of the sacraments is that they teach us the sacredness of all of God's gifts. From Baptism we learn that our true life requires "that which by nature (we) cannot have"—the cleansing power of God. In the Holy Communion we are taught that our whole life is to be fed and nourished by God.

Sunday has been called "the sacrament of time"—a weekly reminder that every day is to be received from God and dedicated to Him.

The ordained Ministry is, likewise, the Sacrament of Vocation. It is a testimony to the fact that every career is to be devoted to the service of God's kingdom.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who art the only Source of light and life; send down upon our Theological Schools the rich gifts of thy good Spirit, that in them thy truth may be sincerely sought, effectually received, and obediently followed, and that in growing measure they may become centers of inspiration and power. Endue their teachers with wisdom, zeal and patience; inspire their scholars with the spirit of truth, honor, and humility; and grant that from all members of the Church which they serve they may receive willing and generous support; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers and Friendship

Brethren, pray for us.

I. Thess. 5:25

HOW should "the people esteem them in their office"? That is, how should people feel toward their clergy and how should they treat them? Let me offer my own answer as a minister.

We want your prayers. Our task is spiritual and it puts a heavy drain on our souls. We have some of the same temptations which you have and some which are peculiar to our profession. Your intercessions can reenforce our weakness and increase our strength in the Lord. We have many problems. Pray for us that we may think clearly and act wisely according to the mind of Christ.

We want your friendship. We are human beings. Don't put us on a pedestal. When you invite us into your houses treat us "like home-folks" naturally and simply. Come to see us, informally. We like to have you drop in, whether we are in the study or in the rectory. Talk freely about your job and your other interests. Let us share our home life and our hobbies with you. My family doctor is my friend; when I see him professionally I feel that I know him and he knows me, and that helps us both. Your parson wants you to feel the same way about him.

A reminder from the Bidding Prayer (P. B. p.47): "Ye shall also pray for the ministers of God's holy Word and Sacraments . . . that they may shine as lights in the world, and in all things may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour."

Ministers All

And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth.

St. Mark 3:14

IT is a very poor parish that has only one Minister. I do not mean one or more curates, but many people who are so interested that they are glad to give time and strength to its work.

A good executive does not try to do everything himself. He picks out others, gives them assignments and backs them up. He is leader of a well-balanced team.

Your rector knows this. But all too often he has to spend time persuading people to accept jobs and keeping after them to make sure the work is being done.

Be ready, cheerful and responsive. But do not be impatient; perhaps the place you would like is already filled. Then pray for the grace of humility and do your best where you are.

And remember that there is always room for the faithful worshipper, the generous giver and the loyal disciple in the daily life of business and society.

O Lord, whose holy apostle has taught us that as members of thy body we all have our part to play in the whole life of thy Church, we thank thee for this work which thou hast given us to do together; and we pray thee to give us grace to persevere in it, and through it to serve thee to thy honor and glory.

FORWARD MOVEMENT PRAYERS

In the Morning

O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee. In the morning I will direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up . . . Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of thy glory; glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

A Morning Resolve

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a childlike faith in God . . . In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord my Father, in Jesus Christ my Saviour, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For Today

O God, give me strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties. Let me not lose faith in my fellow men. Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness. Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them. Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity. Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things. Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth, inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness, and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

FORWARD MOVEMENT PRAYERS

Prayer at Noon

Blessed Saviour, who at this hour didst hang upon the cross stretching forth thy loving Arms, grant that all mankind may look unto thee and be saved.

Almighty Saviour, who at mid-day didst call thy servant St. Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles; we beseech thee to illumine the world with the radiance of thy glory, that all nations may come and worship thee, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Give peace for all time, O Lord, and fill my heart and the hearts of all men everywhere with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Church's Peace and Unity

O Lord Jesus Christ, who saidst unto thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; Regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church; and grant to it that peace and unity which is according to thy will, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

For Sufferers

O Lord, who dost feel the pain of the world, and lookest upon all sick and suffering persons, enfolding them with thy love; Grant that in the midst of pain they may find thy presence; to doctors and nurses grant tender hearts and healing hands; and give health again in body and soul, for thy tender mercy's sake.

Prayer at Night

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest: for thou, Lord, only, makest us to dwell in safety.

Thou, O Christ, art in the midst of us and we are called by thy Name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Save us, O Lord, while waking, guard us while sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

ASCENSION DAY

Thou hast raised our human nature
On the clouds to God's right hand:
There we sit in heavenly places,
There with thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne;
Mighty Lord, in thine ascension,
We by faith behold our own.

Christopher Wordsworth

1940 Hymnal. No. 103

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now:
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

T. Kelly

WHITSUNDAY

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Bianco da Siena. 15th cent.

1940 Hymnal. No. 376

Oh bring us back once more
The vanished days of yore,
When the world with Faith was filled!
Bring back the fervid zeal,
The hearts of fire and steel,
The hands that believe and build!

Longfellow

O God, who art the light and hope of all men; speak to our hearts the word of courage when courage is failing, and many faint for fear and faith grows dim, through the distress of peoples and nations upon earth. Keep us steadfast in the things that cannot be shaken, strong in will to do thy will; and help us ever to lift up our eyes beyond the things which are seen and temporal, to the things which are unseen and eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Christians Undergoing Persecution

O God, who hast taught us through thy Son not to fear those who are able to kill the body but have no power to hurt the soul: Be near, we beseech thee, to our brethren in other lands as they face persecution, danger, or death. Grant them the consciousness of thy presence, and enable them to forgive their persecutors and slanderers. Above all, keep them faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Younger Churches

O God, our Father, we pray for our brethren in the Younger Churches throughout the world. Raise up leaders of wisdom and power, and grant to them strength and courage to make a good witness to the truth that is in them. Make them to know that neither life nor death, nor principalities nor powers, nor any other creature, can separate them from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the Church

O God, who hast planted thy Church throughout the world, keep it, we beseech thee, in thy tender care. Where it is at rest, save it from apathy and sloth; where it is weak and struggling, give it confidence and strength; where it is persecuted, give it the courage to make a faithful witness. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We hope and pray that by the time this issue is out the immediate need of the following prayers will have passed. But we put them here in case it has not.

For the Nation

Almighty God, by whom our fathers won their liberties of old; grant that we and all the people of this land may be strong to maintain our freedom against the assaults of those who by aggression seek to enslave us to their will. Guide, we beseech thee, our President and all to whom has been committed the government of this nation, giving them special gifts of wisdom and understanding, that in the defence of our liberties they may be the instruments of a lasting peace for all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For a Will to Peace

Almighty God, by whose grace we look for the day when nation shall not any more lift up sword against nation, and when men shall live without fear in security and peace, grant to us in this time of strife the will to labor for peace even while our sword is drawn to resist the oppressor. Let not the evil we oppose turn us from the purpose to achieve unity and concord among the nations of the earth, to thy honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For Chaplains in the Armed Forces

Blessed Lord, who didst commission thy disciples to continue the work which the Father sent thee into the world to do, support, we beseech thee, with thy Holy Spirit, those who minister in the Armed Forces of our country. Give them grace to preach thy Gospel both by word and deed; strengthen them in their temptations and make them courageous in the perils of their calling, that they may glorify thee before all men; and do thou hold them ever in thy gracious keeping.

O Lord, merciful Physician of souls, let thy blessing rest, we beseech thee, upon our medical services in the theater of war. Give to the doctors, nurses, stretcher-bearers, orderlies and Red Cross workers, a full measure of thy enabling grace, that they may not grow weary in well-doing, but continue steadfastly in their work of mercy so long as there is need; and grant that through their labors many may be saved.

For the Wounded and the Fallen

Heavenly Father, we commit to thy gracious care and keeping the sick and the wounded in the theater of war. Be thou their inner strength and consolation, and give them health again. Make thy presence known to the missing and those in the hands of the enemy, and in thy love and mercy, we beseech thee, receive the fallen to thyself, forgiving them their sins for thy Name's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Bereaved

Almighty God, who didst offer thy only Son to be made perfect through suffering, and to win our salvation by enduring the cross; sustain with thy healing power all those whose loved ones have given their lives in the service of our country. Redeem, we pray thee, the pain of their bereavement, that knowing their loss to be the price of our freedom, they may remember the gratitude of the nation for which they gave so costly a sacrifice. And grant, O Lord, that these dead shall not have died in vain, and that out of the distress of this present age there may arise a new and better world in which thy will shall rule, to the honor of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

PLAN FOR PRAYER EVERY DAY

It would only tie you down to have *exact words* to say each day (except the Lord's Prayer). *Words* don't matter. Pray earnest *thoughts* from the heart. Always begin with thanks. Pray for people and causes. You need not take in *every* topic every time. Choose and change from time to time. Feel free to add to or omit from this plan, praying always in our Lord's Name, always with thanks.

SUNDAY is always Easter. Give thanks for the Resurrection. Go to Church. Pray for peace. Pray for your Bishop, Rector, Church School & societies, Evangelism, Baptisms, the newly Confirmed.

MONDAY. Home day. Thanks for home. Pray for relatives and friends; for help to make home more Christlike; for absent ones; any in special need. Remember Family Prayers, at least Grace at meals.

TUESDAY. Thanks. Pray for your town. Remember the Council, police, firemen. Pray for community spirit, people in hospitals, for aged and orphans, for those who serve the community.

WEDNESDAY. Thanks. Pray for our Country's honor, justice, freedom, vision. For the President, Cabinet and Congress; that America may truly be "God's country". Pray for the United Nations, for true peace; for "enemy" as well as friendly nations.

THURSDAY. Thanks for the Church, Word and Sacraments. Pray for the mission work done by your Diocese, and for Church missions and causes you know of in the home field; for Evangelism.

FRIDAY. Thanks. Fast day. Remember Church's world-wide mission. Keep map in mind and pray country by country. Pray for our missionaries, and for more clergy. Pray for hunger-relief, and peace. Day of our Lord's Cross. Act of penitence.

SATURDAY. Thanks. Remember the poor, sick, shut-ins, prisoners, and tempted; the dying, the departed. Prepare for your communion. Pray for blessing on tomorrow's worship. Get offering ready.

At Noon: O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us; Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

